

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1440

**Introduced by Assembly Members Diaz, Alquist, Aroner,
Firebaugh, Havice, Robert Pacheco, and Strom-Martin**
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chavez, Goldberg,
Negrete McLeod, and Reyes)*
(Coauthor: Senator Soto)

February 23, 2001

An act to add Chapter 2.1 (commencing with Section 15372.10) to Part 6.7 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to community technology centers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1440, as amended, Diaz. Community Technology Competitive Grant Program.

Existing law establishes the Division of Science, Technology, and Innovation within the Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency under the supervision of the Deputy Secretary of Science, Technology, and Innovation. Existing law specifies the duties of the deputy secretary, including developing and administering grant and matching grant programs that provide appropriate public and private entities for increased access to digital technology for all citizens of the state.

This bill would establish the Community Technology Center Competitive Grant Program to be administered by the division for the purposes of training state residents, students, and businesses about

various aspects of technology, including maximizing the use and benefits offered by technology. ~~The program would offer competitive bill would require the division to award grants for funding community technology centers that meet specified eligibility criteria based on an applicant's merit, need, and geographic distribution to fund community technology centers location, and ability to fulfill the goals of the program.~~

The bill also would establish in the State Treasury the Community Technology Center Competitive Grant Fund. Moneys in this fund would be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of the bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 2.1 (commencing with Section
2 15372.10) is added to Part 6.7 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the
3 Government Code, to read:

4

5 CHAPTER 2.1. COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTERS

6

7 15372.10. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the
8 following:

9 (a) Community technology centers offer neighborhood
10 residents the opportunity to do the following:

11 (1) Learn to use computers.

12 (2) Have access to the Internet.

13 (3) Receive training in word processing, graphic design, and
14 other marketable skills.

15 (4) Use these resources to find information and services and
16 communicate with others, while simultaneously receiving
17 assistance.

18 (b) Although California leads the nation in producing
19 information technology, many of its residents are without access
20 to that technology. In the year 2000, 56.6 percent of households in
21 California owned a computer. Thus, this state ranked 11th in the
22 nation in terms of computer ownership rates by households.
23 California is ranked 10th in the nation in terms of households that



1 are connected to the Internet, with only 46.7 percent of the
2 households in the state having Internet access.

3 (c) Community technology centers serve those groups that do
4 not have access to the Internet at home.

5 (d) Community centers that are trusted and familiar places in
6 neighborhoods are capable of attracting people who would not
7 otherwise have the opportunity to learn about and use technology.

8 (e) Investing in community centers can result in building a
9 technology resource in low-income communities that helps other
10 institutions, such as businesses, schools, and health centers, to use
11 technology effectively.

12 15372.11. For the purposes of this chapter, the following
13 definitions apply:

14 (a) “Division” means the Division of Science, Technology,
15 and Innovation within the Technology, Trade, and Commerce
16 Agency, as established by Section 15329.

17 (b) “Program” means the Community Technology Center
18 Competitive Grant Program.

19 (c) “Community technology center” means a
20 community-based, nonprofit organization that is exempt from
21 taxation under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and
22 engaged in diffusing technology in local communities and training
23 local communities in the use of technology, especially in local
24 communities that otherwise would have no access or limited
25 access to the Internet and other technologies.

26 15372.12. There is hereby established the Community
27 Technology Center Competitive Grant Program to be
28 administered by the Division of Science, Technology, and
29 Innovation within the Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency.

30 15372.13. The program is established for purposes that
31 include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

32 (a) Train residents of this state with marketable technology
33 skills that will help them to obtain higher wage earning jobs within
34 the new economy.

35 (b) Train students in technology.

36 (c) Train and enable residents of this state to use technology to
37 help simplify tasks in their everyday lives.

38 (d) Train and enable local businesses, community
39 organizations, and institutions to use technology that will

1 streamline their operating systems and help maximize their profit,
2 productivity, effectiveness, and success.

3 (e) Provide community members, especially those of lower
4 income, with access to e-government.

5 (f) Provide a safe, positive environment for children and youth,
6 especially during afterschool hours when they are most at risk.

7 ~~(g) Provide appropriate support services to enable participation~~
8 ~~in center programs.~~

9 ~~(h)~~

10 (g) Build and strengthen community collaborations and public
11 and private partnerships.

12 ~~15372.14. (a) The program shall offer competitive grants~~
13 ~~based on merit, need, and geographic distribution for the purposes~~
14 ~~of funding community technology centers.~~

15 *15372.14. (a) (1) The division shall develop and administer*
16 *a competitive grant application process in order to award grants*
17 *for the purpose of funding community technology centers. The*
18 *process shall specify eligibility criteria consistent with the*
19 *provisions of this chapter. In awarding grants, the division shall*
20 *consider an applicant's merit, need, geographic location, and*
21 *ability to fulfill the goals of the program.*

22 *(2) A community technology center is eligible for a grant if its*
23 *application states the following about the center:*

24 *(A) It has the capacity to serve as a technology resource in its*
25 *local community and to provide open access hours for local*
26 *residents.*

27 *(B) It provides technology skills training targeted to existing*
28 *workforce needs.*

29 *(C) It has a staff qualified to manage technology center*
30 *operations.*

31 *(D) It has a comprehensive public relations and community*
32 *outreach program.*

33 (b) Grant funds shall be provided to each grantee, in an amount
34 not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), to match
35 *nonstate* monetary or in-kind resources on a one-to-one basis, in
36 order to help the grantee obtain contributions from local, federal,
37 or foundation or other private sources.

38 (c) Maximum flexibility shall be given to grantees to meet the
39 purpose outlined in Section 15372.13, in order to encourage
40 innovative programs.

1 (d) Grants provided under this section shall be awarded for a
2 period of up to three years, but the state's contribution shall
3 decrease in accordance with ongoing program costs.

4 (e) *The agency shall report on this program in its annual report*
5 *as required by subdivision (c) of Section 15363.6.*

6 15372.15. (a) *In order to carry out the provisions of this*
7 *chapter, there is hereby established in the State Treasury the*
8 *Community Technology Center Competitive Grant Fund.*

9 (b) *The fund shall receive state funds appropriated to it,*
10 *contributions from nonstate sources, reimbursements, federal*
11 *funds, and interest that accrues to the moneys in the fund pursuant*
12 *to subdivision (c). All moneys in this fund shall be available, upon*
13 *appropriation by the Legislature, for expenditure for the purposes*
14 *stated in this chapter.*

15 (c) *The Treasurer shall invest moneys contained in the fund not*
16 *needed to meet current obligations in the same manner as other*
17 *public funds are invested.*

